## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 /080 W

-----101205Z 123369 /11

P R 101048Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4826
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1007

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: IS, LE, PFOR

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM POST REPORTS NABATIYAH AGREEMENT

IN 24 HOURS

- 1. THE JERUSALEM POST (WOLF BLITZER) FEBRUARY 10 CARRIES A FRONT-PAGE STORY HEADLINED "U.S. SAID REACHING ACCORD ON NABATIYAH IN 24 HOURS." TEXT FOLLOWS.
- 2. BEGIN TEXT THE U.S. IS EXPECTED TO REACH AN ISRAELI-SYRIAN-LEBANESE UNDERSTANDING DURING THE NEXT 24 HOURS REGARDING A WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES FROM THE SOUTHERN LEBANESE TOWN OF NABATIYAH.
- 3. ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES HERE, ALL PARTIES ARE NOW SAID TO BE CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT THAT WILL EVENTUALLY RESULT IN A SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TOWN, ALTHOUGH DETAILS OF THE EVENTUAL UNDERSTANDING HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT BEEN DISCLOSED.

4. IT HAS BEEN LEARNED HERE THAT SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE MATTER RESOLVED BEFORE EMBARKING NEXT MONDAY EVENING ON HIS MIDDLE EAST TOUR. ISRAEL AMBASSADOR SIMCHA DINITZ, WHO MET ON TUESDAY EVENING WITH UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

PHILIP HABIB TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER, IS DUE TO LEAVE FOR ISRAEL WITHIN 24 HOURS, AND HE TOO IS HOPEFUL THAT THE MATTER CAN BE WORKED OUT BEFORE HE LEAVES.

- 5. IN GENERAL, U.S. AND ISRAEL SOURCES HERE WERE OPTIMISTIC YESTERDAY THAT AN AGREEMENT WAS AT HAND.
- 6. ALTHOUGH THE UNDERSTANDING, WHICH WILL BE REACHED THROUGH INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, WILL PROBABLY BE ACHIEVED DURING THE NEXT 24 HOURS, ITS IMPLEMENTATION MIGHT NOT TAKE PLACE FOR SOME ADDITIONAL TIME --BUT THAT WILL BE ONLY A PROCEDURAL MATTER, SOURCES HERE INSISTED.
- 7. IT WAS BELIEVED UNLIKELY THAT DINITZ WOULD HAVE TO POSTPONE HIS DEPARTURE FOR ISRAEL BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON.
- 8. INFORMED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND JERUSALEM ON THE NATURE OF THE CONTROVERSY AND THAT BOTH SEE EYE-TO-EYE ON THE PROBLEM. THEY AGREE THAT THE SYRIAN PRESENCE AROUND NABATIYAH IS A VIOLATION OF THE SO-CALLED "RED LINE" THEORY CALLING UPON SYRIAN SOLDIERS TO REFRAIN FROM ENTERING THE REGION CLOSE TO THE ISRAELI FRONTIER.
- 9. ISRAEL WOULD ACCEPT THE REPLACEMENT OF THE SYRIAN PRESENCE AROUND NABATIYAH WITH TROOPS ATTACHED UNCLASSIFIED

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TO THE CENTRAL LEBANESE ARMY--AND MOST SOURCES HERE CONCEDE THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL MAY IN FACT EMERGE FROM THE DISCUSSIONS. END TEXT.

10. SIMILAR REPORTS ARE CARRIED BY HAARETZ (GOLAN), YEDIOT AHARONOT (ZIMUKI), AND MAARIVE (DISSENCHIK), DUNNIGAN

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, AGREEMENTS, CIVIL DISORDERS, NABATIYAH

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV01007
Document Source: CORE

**Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** 

Film Number: D770047-1181

Format: TEL

From: TEL AVIV Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770252/aaaabukh.tel

Line Count: 104 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: a74074c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 10-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3350398 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: JERUSALEM POST REPORTS NABATIYAH AGREEMENT IN 24 HOURS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, IS, LE, SY, US

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a74074c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009